Instrument panel for a motor vehicle
having an airbag device
integrated in a ventilation arrangement

C l a i m s

1. Instrument panel for a motor vehicle comprising of at least one ventilation outlet and a ventilation duct attached thereto and arranged behind the instrument panel, further comprising of an airbag module which is fastened behind said instrument panel and has a gas generator and a folded airbag arranged within its housing, wherein an outlet opening, which is closed by a covering that opens when said airbag module is triggered, is provided within said instrument panel for said unfolding airbag, characterized in that said airbag module (16) is arranged adjacent to said ventilation duct (12) in such a manner that, when said airbag module (16) is triggered, said airbag (18) unfolds into said ventilation duct (12) and from there unfolds out of said instrument panel (11) through said ventilation outlet (13, 14), the pressure of said unfolding airbag (18) moving away said ventilation outlet (13, 14) arranged within said instrument panel (11).

2. Instrument panel according to claim 1, characterized in that the housing wall of said airbag module (16) that is adjacent to said ventilation duct (12) forms a dividing wall for said ventilation duct (12) and, when said airbag module (16) is triggered, moves into said ventilation duct (12) in such a manner that there is formed an escape channel (40) leading from said airbag module (16) to said ventilation outlet (13, 14).

3. Instrument panel according to claim 1, characterized in that said dividing wall of said ventilation duct (12) adjacent to said airbag module (16) forms a housing wall for said airbag module (16) and that, when said airbag module (16) is triggered, said mutual dividing wall / housing wall (23) moves into said ventilation duct (12) in such a manner that there is formed an escape channel (40) leading from said airbag module (16) to said ventilation outlet (13, 14).

4. Instrument panel according to claim 3, characterized in that said airbag module (16) is arranged laterally next to said ventilation duct (12) and that said dividing and housing wall (23) swings into said ventilation duct (12) around a fixed point (24) located far from the instrument panel (11).

5. Instrument panel according to claim 3 or 4, characterized in that said ventilation outlet (13, 14) partially overlaps said airbag module (16) and that that region of said dividing and housing wall (23) that faces said instrument panel (11) demonstrates a diagonal kink (25) leading to that edge of said ventilation outlet (13) located on the module side, said mutual dividing and housing wall running behind said ventilation outlet (13, 14).

6. Instrument panel according to claim 5, characterized in that said kink (25) is dimensioned in such a manner that said kink (25) fits into place on the opposite edge (26) of said ventilation outlet (13) during the swinging of said dividing and housing wall (23), thus forming and delimiting said escape channel (40) for said unfolding airbag (18).

7. Instrument panel according to claim 3, characterized in that said airbag module (16) is arranged on the side of said ventilation duct (12) opposite said instrument panel (11).

8. Instrument panel according to claim 7, characterized in that said airbag module (16) is designed L-shaped with one section (30) located laterally next to said ventilation duct and one section (29) located on the side of said ventilation duct (12) opposite said instrument panel (11), said mutual dividing and housing walls (23) of said ventilation duct (12) adjacent to said airbag module (16) being integrally joined together and swinging into said ventilation duct (12) when said airbag module (16) is triggered.

9. Instrument panel according to one of the claims 1 to 8, characterized in that a partition wall (20) arranged within said housing (17) of said airbag module (16) divides said airbag (18), which is folded into said housing (17), into two folding packages (21, 22), one folding package (21) being arranged adjacent to said ventilation outlet (13).

10. Instrument panel according to claim 9, characterized in that said folding package (21) adjacent to said ventilation outlet (13) has a smaller dimension than said second folding package (22) and acts as a starting bubble for the pulling out said second folding package (22) when said airbag module (16) is triggered.

11. Instrument panel according to claim 9 or 10, characterized in that the fitting arrangement of a plurality of partition walls (20) divides said folded airbag (18) into a plurality of folding packages.

12. Instrument panel according to one of the claims 1 to 11, characterized in that a holding device (32, 34) attaches said airbag module (16) to said ventilation duct (12) and fastens it to the interior of said instrument panel (11).

13. Instrument panel according to one of the claims 1 to 12, characterized in that a foil (31) covers and holds said airbag (18) in the vicinity where said airbag module (16) is connected to said mutual dividing and housing wall (23), said airbag being folded into said housing (17) and said foil tearing open when said airbag (18) unfolds and lying down as protection between said airbag (18) and the edges of said ventilation outlet (13, 14).

14. Instrument panel according to one of the claims 1 to 13, characterized in that predetermined breaking lines separate the vicinity of said instrument panel (11) adjacent to said ventilation outlet (13, 14) from the rest of said instrument panel so that said unfolding

airbag (18) separates, from said instrument panel (11) , both the separated region and said ventilation outlet (13, 14) acting as escape hole for said airbag (18).